

Washburn College,  
Topeka, Kan., Jun. 24, 1889.

Sereno Watson,  
Curator Harv. Herbarium,

Dear Sir:—

Yours regarding Eriogonum should have been answered long since. It came in the busy season of preparation for examinations and Commencements. Mr. B. B. Smyth's Catalogue of Kansas Plants was not based on Washburn College specimens. It was a compilation from all sources, and, in part, <sup>a series of</sup> original observations on plants of (especially) central Kans. by Mr. S. himself. I find but a single specimen of Eriogonum (which I send herewith) in our herbarium = E. annuum, fr. centr. Ks. A species which is apparently the same is extremely common in central Kans (I have noticed it especially in Reno county). I spoke to Mr. B. B. Smyth, requesting him to send you what he had in this genus. He had two spp., as to the identity of one of which he is uncertain. These specimens he said he would send.

I have requested Dr. J. H. Oyster of Paola, Kan. (a self-educated man, but a very diligent and enthusiastic student of Kans. Botany)

to send you his Kans. material of Eriogonum, and any  
spms or notes whatever that he thinks may be especially  
useful to you in a work of ~~so~~ great benefit to Kansas  
botanists. He is a very unselfish man, has a large  
Kansas herbarium, and can and will, I think, and you  
with material in almost any Kansas genus for which you  
may apply to him. He is poor, however, and I have told him to  
make sendings at my expense. I presume you will gladly pay  
expense of returning spms to him. All things considered, I know  
of no one better posted on Kansas Botany. E. N. Plank of Wyandotte  
Kansas has probably the largest collection of Kansas plants - extant.  
having tramped over <sup>for 5 or 6 years</sup> Kansas for the sole purpose of collecting material for a Kansas Botany.  
But he works on the hermit plan - and he rarely allows any one to  
get an item of information from him, lest it should injure his  
future work on Kans. Botany. He has but a very small library,  
and cannot produce a valuable work alone; and it would  
be a boon to science, if you, or any competent botanist could  
induce him to turn over his entire collection - which is well  
made - to be thoroughly worked up. Possibly an offer of to  
purchase his collection might accomplish this, but it is doubt-  
ful, and certainly nothing else would -

The State Agr. College (Prof. W. B. Kellerman in charge Botan-  
Dpt.) <sup>Manhattan Kan.</sup> has a large collection of Kansas plants, including western  
sp. As Prof. K. has already publ'd a "Kans. Flora", however, and  
promised a second edition, I can't say how much he will be  
willing to do, as your work would drive him out of field, at least  
to a large extent. — Prof. <sup>W. K.</sup> Snow (State Univ., Lawrence,  
Kan.) and J. H. Barruth (resident, Lawrence Kansas) also have large  
collections of Kans. plants. —

I send you with the Eriogonum some specimens of Delphinium which show that D. tricornis (acc. to divergent pods) is not so few-flowered <sup>in Kans.</sup> while another Delph., 3 ft. tall, is few flowered and <sup>sometimes</sup> has upper-leaves lanceolate entire. The former is common on prairie slopes and low "draws"; latter in woods. Both are commonly blue with us. Delph. azureum - our commonest prairie species - is by far most commonly blue-white with us.

I inclose a drawing and rough notes, made several yrs since, of a Yalium from West. part of Barber county and E. part of Comanche Co - Kan. - common on sandy uplands and among sandstone rocks in broken lands, which is much like Y. teretifolium, but has much more numerous stamens than the books give for that species. It belongs in district E. of 100<sup>th</sup> meridian, and if it is teretifolium, descript. of that sp. should be modified accordingly. I start for that region on a geological trip immediately, and if it is not already too late for it, I will try to send you actual specimens - May not reach the exact locality for a wk yet.

I shall spend most of the summer exploring geologically in central Kans. If I come across anything of apparent interest, <sup>in botanic line</sup> shall take pleasure in sending it. My permanent address while travelling, from which mail will be forwarded, is Topeka. Sincerely yrs - F. W. Cragon.